## THE PENSION BILL.

The Unanimous Voice of the House

Committee

In Favor of Its Passage Over the President's Veto.

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On Saturday the House Ponsion Committee the passage of the Dependent Pension Bill over | pared to refuse a pension even to them, if one | proportionate, according to the length of their the President's veto. Thursday, Feb. 24, was is needed to give a comfortable living. fixed for the consideration of the report, the - full text of which is as follows:

charged soldiers and sailors, who are now disstating his objections thereto, having had said bill and accompanying message under consideration, respectfully submit the following:

tion : the first is, that no objection is made to | year to year." the bill on any ground of its constitutionality. ent proposition, and in the precise form specifically urged by the Secretary of the Interior in his last annual report, meets with his approval or disapproval.

The message is devoted wholly to the second fit to urge against that.

tention of this committee, and a brief history | lutely needy and totally unable to work. of what has been done may not be altogether derstanding of the facts may be had.

of war, and a general service pension bill to the Executive. all entitled to some relief, and that relief to required, some who had seen little, if any, field as the approval of the country.

of Ohio, introduced a bill (H. R. 6230) entitled or their widows, of the United States in the | become inured to it.

degree of inability continues.

the pension provided for shall continue, and | fited by the bill now under consideration. states as aptly as language can state anything that it shall be in "the degree" provided for that is the one adopted by your committee.

been intended to embrace only those who were serving in the Confederate army. cludes the construction sought to be given by

can be well described as those "totally unable od anywhere by the patriotic sentiment of this support at an average age of 55 years. to labor" and "who are dependent upon their | country.

daily labor for support." will relate only to the date of the filing of the under consideration. application, and for that reason can be the more

cal or other meaning that by the practice of the Pension Office or otherwise may attach to a word, or to an expression, is to obtain, and the rule laid down by the Executive that "pension laws should be liberally administered as meas-ures of benevolence in behalf of worthy beneficiaries" may be a sound rule of construction; but if it is, it is at least met by another rule of be strictly construed, and especially is this true | benefited the officers. where the statute is not in aid of any contract, express or implied, with the beneficiary named.

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was submitted the bill (H. R. 10457) for the rewas submitted the bill (H. R. 10457) for the rewhen considering the whole message to say that lief of dependent parents, and honorably-dis- if its provisions had been plainer, and that no therefore does not represent the actual number abled and dependent upon their own labor for | included only those unable to labor, that he | safe to say that 165,000 individuals served at | stricted to a total inability to procure a subsist- | cost thereof, and based upon the idea that the

Two facts will arrest the attention of any | fied that the cost stated would be many times |

The right of Congress to enact the law is not | stated at \$4,767,120 per annum, and the numquestioned; all the questions raised are ques- ber of persons to be embraced in that estimate, credited. tions of mere expediency. The other is, that | 33,105. And again he says; "Never before in the first section of the bill is not touched upon | the history of the country has it been proposed by the message, and no intimation is given by to render Government aid toward the support the President as to whether that section of of any of its soldiers based alone upon a mili- 2 of the bill under consideration as to the itself alone, embodying as it does an independ- tary service so recent, and where age and circumstances seem so little to demand it."

If the estimate referred to is too small, so that section of the bill, and this report is intended and who are dependent upon their daily labor a pension to the indigent survivors of the war to meet the objections the President has seen | for support, is about 100,000; for if our estimate | of the Revolution, is multiplied by three, which certainly is not The subject-matters embraced in the second | too many, then the appalling fact is reached section have, since the earliest days of this Con- that so many of the heroic men who have sufgress, received the carnest and continued at- fered for their country's sake are now abso- formation, the estimate of the Chairman of the on the increase, and is a standing temptation

This consideration causes us to stand more uninteresting, and, indeed, seems to be made | firmly for the proposition embodied in the secnecessary, in order that a more thorough un- oud section of the bill, because, conceding that | knowledge, confined to his own locality, could | sity for fortifying our harbors and coasts, nor our estimate is too low, and that the number | afford. The bill appears to have been introduced by utterly unable to work is larger than was herethe writer of this report, and was so introduced | tofore estimated, then there is that much | known survivors of the officers of the New | fault to find with the erection of public buildon the 10th of January, 1887. Months before stronger reason for giving the relief; that many that time, however, except as to the fourth sec- more are to be found of (using the language of 160, who he states served in said brigade; which them, nor yet do they criticize the large to him for particulars. tion of said bill, the bill had been agreed upon by this committee after long, careful and exsage) "those who have served their country of surviving officers in other States, and, as he ment of the rivers and harbors of the country. baustive deliberation, and the committee had long and well and are reduced to destitution | believed, the whole number of officers during | But it is a patent fact that no such schemes directed that any privilege belonging to it as a and dependence, not as an incident of their the war to have been 2,720, there were then would be entertained in many instances, nor committee should not be allowed to escape without an attempt to pass the bill in the House.

Service, but with advancing age through sickness or misfortune." And we have been ply for pension. He further estimated the ness or misfortune and the service at the living 340, one-tenth of whom, or 34, would apply for pension. He further estimated the ness or misfortune are not account to pass the bill in the ness or misfortune. The further estimated the ness or misfortune are not account to pass the bill in the ness or misfortune. The further estimated the ness or misfortune are not account to pass the bill in the ness or misfortune. The further estimated the ness or misfortune are not account to pass the bill in the ness or misfortune. The further estimated the ness or misfortune are not account to pass the bill in the ness or misfortune. The further estimated the ness or misfortune are not account to pass the bill in the ness or misfortune. The further estimated the ness or misfortune are not account to pass the bill in the ness or misfortune. The further estimated the ness or misfortune are not account to pass the bill in the ness or misfortune are not account to pass the bill in the ness or misfortune are not account to pass the bill in the ness or misfortune are not account to pass the bill in the ness or misfortune are not account to pass the bill in the ness or misfortune are not necessarily to pass the bill in the ness or misfortune are not necessarily to pass the bill in the ness or misfortune are not necessarily to pass the bill in the ness or misfortune are not necessarily to pass the bill in the necessarily to pass When this Congress met a number of impor- dition," and are yet tempted more strongly close of the war at 17,000, one-tenth of whom, there will be no way of returning to circulation tant matters of general pension legislation were when we consider the fact that we have not pressed upon the attention of the committe; when we consider the fact that we have not further believed that one-fifth of that number, per cent. bonds, now nearly completed, and besome of them, in our judgment, involving the being undergone by those heroes, "to supply or 340, would try to avail themselves of the pen- fore the maturity of the bonds becoming due expenditure of more money than is caused by relief," and if we were wrong in our estimate | sion provided by the bill, making a total of | in 1891, except by appropriations for some purthis bill. The arrears proposition was pressed we submit that we are supplied now with a officers and enlisted men as probable bene- pose. Dismissing the question whether a penwith great force and carnestness; a proposition to equalize bounties, to pension prisoners of this bill notwithstanding the objections of Admitting, for sake of argument, the state-

that the really indigent soldiers were first of | contended that as only three months' service is | statistics. which we believed, in that regard, would meet | gerous service of the entire war, and the injury

late civil war who are dependent upon their | The same process of reasoning adopted by daily labor for support." The first section of the Executive in support of this objection | years had elapsed since the close of the war. | indeed they should, for it was framed at their this bill, out of deference to the gentleman who | would have obtained against every general was its author, as he had so persistently pressed | statute that now gives a pension or ever did us to give the subject preference over all other give one. More than all that, this bill is in- during the war, 148,000 survived the same. committee and claiming their attention. So measures, was taken as the frame work for the tended to relieve those who cannot prove a According to Mr. Bloomfield's statements, one- far as they have been able to gather public bill agreed upon by the committee. It will be pension claim under the present laws; men ascertained upon examination that the Ells- who saw field service and who made no hospital be then living. Instead of 2,040, as he would the bill seems to be strongest in moneyed conberry bill provides a pension for a total disabil- records. Those who made hospital records can | make us believe, there would have been 14,800. | ters in which all water which does not turn ity, and also for an "inferior disability an | now conveniently use them to procure relief. | But that he estimated the losses by death at an | their mills is considered as worse than wasted. amount proportionate to that," and so when the criticism was first made in relation to the Pension Office upon their hospital records, and self-evident. No recognized mortality tables what bonded indebtedness is still "resting on a bill now under consideration that the class of a large share of such soldiers are pensioned, warrant such an extraordinary calculation. If great majority of Northern Counties and cities pensions embraced by said bill was not well | while the man who was always in his place in | the mortality among the 148,000 presumed sur- on account of the large local bounties paid our defined, this committee set about, with some the ranks and can now show no disability by the vivors reached 12 per thousand annually for soldiers." So far as the knowledge of their own apprehension, to inquire whether there was records that was sufficient to keep him from the first 20 years, we find 112,480 survivors in districts goes, this indebtedness has been paid that vagueness or ambiguity that laid it open | duty, but as old age comes on begins to feel the | the year 1803, and 20 per thousand for the re- long since. No motives of patriotism were con-After the most painstaking, candid, and judi- always ready to report "present for duty," is number of survivors in the year of Mr. Bloom- was imminent, which would have swept into

by the committee, as stated upon the floor of | tee to understand how the President could on the subject, and borne out by the fact that | whatever. The Counties, Townships and the the House at the time the bill passed, is the only have overlooked in another bill what was as heretofore stated, 22,297 of the soldiers of cities, therefore, decided for themselves, and fair interpretation to be put upon it. It provides alleged as faults in this bill. The bill we refer that war presented themselves before the courts on their own motion, that they would prefer but one pension, and that pension is one of \$12 to passed the House on the same day this did, of their respective counties, under the act of to pay bounties and raise their quota rather per month, and is given for a 'total inability to and met with his unhesitating approval. It is 1818, 1,200 under the act of 1828, and 39,208 than have their citizens subjected to the dragprocure a subsistence by daily labor." There is the bill to give pensions to the survivors of the under the act of 1832. no provision for any less rate, nor for any less | war with Mexico, etc. Under that bill if one | This committee does not desire to question | or cities are yet oppressed by the debts erected degree of disability than a total inability, and is now under it is further provided that "such pension shall 62 years of age, applies he must allege and planation of the cost of his bill. He evidently citizens to military service was so great that continue during the existence of the disability prove some degree of dependency, no mat- had overlooked the fact that the bill would they were willing and anxious to pay extrain the degree herein provided." What degree? ter how slight, quite vague and indefinite, and benefit a large number of ex-soldiers whose ordinary bounties to those who were willing to There is but the one provided for, and that is any degree of disability is sufficient, no matter | term of service had expired before peace was | go in their places. a degree of total inability to procure a sub- how incurred, except in the military service | declared. Again, the facilities for making estisistence by daily labor. The point we wish to against the United States; and no matter if he mates in a matter, under the most favorable to it is entitled to any special sympathy or conemphasize is that but one pension is provided, be worth millions he need only show 60 days' circumstances, necessarily involved in more or sideration. It is undoubtedly a "source of and to obtain it a degree of total inability to service; he need not have been in actual en- less doubt, were not of the character afforded pride and congratulation to the American citiprocure subsistence by daily labor must be gagement with the enemy, or subjected to any the legislator of to-day. The country was in | zen that his country is not put to the charge shown, and that it is further expressly stated of the actual dangers of war, or even that he its infancy. The stage-coach was the only of maintaining a large standing army in times that the pension shall only continue while that | should have been in Mexico, or on the coast or | means of travel, the post the only means of By some strange circumstance this provision | en route thereto; and it embraces within its | tedious, and little calculated to promote inter- | been tolerated in peaceful times to meet the of the bill which fixes the time during which | provisions more persons than are to be bene- course and communication with persons living | obligations incurred in war." Your committee

therein, has escaped the attention of the Exe- comstances or necessitics, and without requir- to which Mr. Bloomfield referred, were necessacutive and other critics referred to by him, who | ing any disability as the result of service, even | rily limited to those who lived within a dis- | ing one can be dispensed with, but to carry on seek to place a construction upon the bill differ- though he be a Member of Congress drawing a tance of a few miles. ent from that which was clearly intended and salary of \$5,000 per annum. It gives a pension | The young soldier of the Revolution who necessary, and all the unusual expense consewhich we believe is clearly expressed. All agree to every soldier under 63 years for any disa- left his home in the East to seek his fortune in quent upon its equipment and support must be that the bill embraces those who have this bility, even if the disability resulted since his the then hardly known western part of the incurred, to be paid for when peace and prosdegree of total inability. The only question service and from his own vicious habits or gross country, was soon lost sight of by his former perity are again restored. The era of universal at issue is whether it does not embrace more carelessness, and for this be gets \$8, while the comrades. This undoubtedly was the case peace not yet having arrived, we must conthan that class. In the light of the express Union soldier for the same disability received | with thousands. To-day the railroad, the tele-

as is done, a 'degree' of such inability." This or latent ambiguity in the Mexican pension known to the Government.

of the fact that the last words used in the bill, The bill we presented to the House was broad, tation that pension laws at this date receive at The experience of your committee has brought and words which prescribe the right to a pen- liberal and patriotic. It struck down any dis- the hands of the proper authorities, or would them into hearty accord with these views of gion to exist only in one class who have "the barment from the pension list on account of have been subjected to had the power to de- the President, and largely in accordance with degree" of disability provided for, entirely ex- any service against the flag, excepting such termine the merits of each individual case his suggestions they framed a bill which they the President that more than one class would | bilities. It was intended to reach mainly the | local court officers. It is true that under the | best accomplish the ends proposed. They are These words are used in prescribing the right | the Union, but it embraced within its generous | not required to prove "total inability to pro- | the officers of the Pension Bureau, or by any to a pension under the bill, and are not mere | terms the survivors of the war of 1812, the | cure their subsistence by daily labor" in addiwords of description. Taken altogether, and Indian wars, and the war with Mexico-all tion to their dependence upon such labor for meet the case. They are also equally well not so delicately analyzed that the refinement | who could show that they were totally unable | their support, but that, even under the more | aware that to those who are opposed to pension of a chemical experiment is exceeded in an to labor and were dependent upon their daily liberal provisions of that act, many, through legislation no bill, however framed, can escape effort to do away with the plain provisions of labor for support could appeal to its provisions, favoritism, by misrepresentations and other misconstruction and misinterpretation. the bill, we again submit to the judgment of and all were to be treated exactly alike. If disreputable devices, were adjudged indigent the House and the country that those who this bill fails to become a law, such distinctions there can be no doubt, for it is hardly possible framed the bill, after months of careful, de- are made by the act of the Executive in ap- that one out of every four of the survivors, liberate consultation, have made no mistake, proving one and disapproving the other that "by reason of his reduced circumstances in and have embraced but one class, and that class | the committee cannot believe it will be indors- | life," needed the assistance of his country for

But it is asked what is a support, and how is in a measure, been treated by the Executive to ascertain the probable number who would it to be fairly determined? The answer to that as a service pension bill only, and par- be beneficiaries under the second section of this is that this very question for 25 years has been ticular reference has been made by him in his | bill. Gen. J. C. Black, Commissioner of Penadjudicated by the Pension Office, and in per- veto message to the first legislation had by sions, last year, with great care and labor, made haps more than 10,000 cases. Whenever a claim | Congress under which the soldiers of the war | a special effort to learn the exact number of has been made by a dependent father, one of of the Revolution became pensioners regard- persons who had at any time been in the milithe material inquiries was, was the claimant less of disability contracted in the service and tary service of the United States and who are truth and good faith" in the prosecution of himself, at the time of the death of the soldier, line of duty, it is deemed proper in this con- now supported wholly or in part by public happening in some cases many years before, then able to earn his support by daily labor. In the present such facts in connection prepared blanks to be sent to every county in

easily adjudicated. If the Pension Office cannot granting pensions to the surviving officers and and carefully tabulated, and from the data thus adjudicate that question, the whole business of soldiers of the war of the Revolution, who, "by secured he concludes that the total number of rating pensions is a farce, for upon all degrees | reason of their reduced circumstances in life, | soldiers now in the poorhouses and other chariof disabilities under the general law the rate of shall be in need of assistance from their country table institutions, not including the Soldiers' pension is fixed in amount ranging from \$1 to for support." The only requirement under the Homes maintained by the General Govern-\$72, upon the degree of physical disability, and act was nine months' service during or at the ment, cannot exceed 9,000. to the extent it disables the pensioner, for what? close of the war. The rate of pension profor earning a support by manual labor.

This includes some who have served in the cent., or one in each thousand only, of allowed vided in said act was \$20 per month in cases of Regular Army in time of peace, and who would cases were fraudulent. With the present large

applicants resided.

20,485 only were allowed. On May 15, 1828, Congress enlarged the pen-sion provided for by the aforesaid act of March

The next legislation with reference to Revo-If this bill did embrace all who are described 1832, when, under the act of June 2, of that to be dependent 1,200 are now receiving penin the President's interpretation of it, this com- year, full-pay pensions, without regard to finan- sions of some amount, and 1,800 are reported inmittee would still favor its passage, for those | cial condition, were granted to all, except for- | sane or blind. It is highly probable that many he describes are such as are, to say the least of eign officers, who served for two years, and to are now receiving the full amount allowed by submitted a unanimous report recommending | it, in a needy condition, and we are not pre- | those who served at least six months an amount | this measure.

service. We regard the strained interpretation put | From the best information obtainable there than a reason for returning it to the House, and of the Revolution (April 19, 1775, to April 11, support, and the message of the President, would have yet interposed objections. He one period or the other during the war. The ence by daily labor, your committee are confiexcept those utterly unable to labor I am satis- contracted in said war was small, 2,513 only | should not be set against a patriotic duty or

> The President takes occasion to remind Conthe Committee on Invalid Pensions on section | have helped to save.

ments made by Mr. Bloomfield that there were | definition in his present message that it is a pension all the soldiers of the Union at \$8 per | But it is urged that some unworthy ones | 17,000 deaths in the army during the war and | charity, and not considering it necessary to mouth, besides many others of less magnitude, would be benefited by this bill. Possibly so, that there were only 17,000 men in the army present purposes exactly to define whether a but each having its especial champions, who and so under any general law, no matter how at the close of the war, we fail to find in what pension is a gratuity or a charity, or simply an were continuously contending for precedence | you might attempt to guard it, great abuses | manner he accounts for the other 275,791 en- | expression of gratitude from the people to those before your committee. The conclusion was might arise. As to the length of service, it is listments during the war, as shown by official who have in times past been their defenders,

them would satisfy, in a measure, the demands service could take advantage of its provisions. individual persons are represented, and that this surplus will be best restored to them for many other kinds of legislation; and with Yet upon the other hand, thousands and tens | three-fourths of that number rendered during | in the manner proposed by this bill. this in view, your committee went to work to of thousands of men who enlisted for only three different periods of the war the requisite nine frame a bill upon which we could all agree, and | months saw some of the most arduous and dan- | months' service under the act, there were lost | claim it as their own, and share it among themthe immediate needs of our ex-soldiers, as well | that results to one who quits the peaceful voca- | diers. Following up Mr. Bloomfield's calcula- | bine." It will go among the people in small tions of life to undergo the trying ordeal of an tion, 11,250 of that number would have been amounts and will be spent in their midst. It On the 1st day of March, 1886, Mr. Elisberry, active military service is most likely to follow alive at the date of his speech, and 2,324 would | will be returned directly to those from whom it from the earlier months of his service than | have been the number of expected applicants | largely came. Your committee has thus far "A bill granting pensions to all invalid soldiers, from a period of his service later, when he has instead of 374. But were his estimates in any failed to receive any expressions of disapproval

tenth only of the survivors were supposed to sentiment on this question, the opposition to strain put upon him by the fact that he was maining 14 years, 80,994 would have been the cerned in the creation of this debt. A draft cial consideration of the subject, we are com- left to suffer, and for him we supply no relief. | field's remarkable estimate of 374. This esti- | the army the rich and poor, without drawpelled to insist that the construction given it | It passes the comprehension of this commit- mate is in keeping with recognized authorities | ing any nice distinctions of any character

> frontier thereof; it is sufficient if he had been communication. Either was expensive and we are now living under a war tax which has in remote places or any considerable distance. It grants the pension to every soldier over 62 | Soldiers' Reunions of to-day would have been years of age without any condition to his cir- an impossibility, while 4th of July gatherings, prosecution of war. An army is not a necessity

the language is the most apt to give expression the language is the language i pessrons as were laboring under political disa- been placed in the Government instead of the thought, and still continue to think, will survivors of our civil war who had fought for provisions of the act of 1818 claimants were of the opinion that the bill, if interpreted by

The committee have after long and patient Inasmuch as the bill under consideration has, labor exhausted every means at their command Under this bill the inquiry will be one that | therewith as may be pertitent to the matter | the Nation. Reports were received from 36 States and seven Territories, including the Dis-On March 18, 1818, Congress passed an act | trict of Columbia. These reports he has fully

This section of the bill is to be construed as officers, and \$8 per month for enlisted men. not therefore be entitled to any of the benefits force of Special Examiners in the field, charged all other laws or legal instruments are con- The act further provided that the title to pen- of this act. Your committee are of the opinion with the duty of reporting to the office any

strued, so that words used should be given their sion thereunder shall be determined by the of those who would be placed upon the pension and acceptation. No technical respective courts of the locality in which the portunity to procure a fraudulent pension, or roll under the provisions of this bill, and this portunity to procure a fraudulent pension, or opinion is strengthened by a careful and elabo-Under this act 22,297 applications, in accordance with its provisions, were filed in the De- rate examination of reports of the Commispartment, but, so far as the records show, sioner of Pensions for several years past, and a reports. But to guard against any possibility of underestimating, they have placed the num-18, 1818, to the full pay of officers and soldiers | ber at three times that given by the Commislaw, that statutes conferring new rights are to of the Continental line. This increase largely sioner, making the total number 27,000, the allowing the full pension to all. But the statislutionary soldiers' service pensions was had in | ties obtained show that of the 9,000 so estimated

It is proper to add in this connection that the amount of pensions paid under the pension | far as very many desired it should go, but it is laws, except where the rate is fixed for a specific at least a good start in the right direction. upon the bill in the message as an excuse rather | were, during the recognized period of the war | disability, depends to a considerable extent | upon the report made by the Examining Boards the construction given by the Commissioner of question could have been raised as to whether it of individuals engaged in said war. It may be Pensions. If the benefits of this act are re- sion list, or that will materially increase the number of invalid pensions granted by the dent the amount required would not exceed "If none should be pensioned under this bill | General Government on account of disability | the estimate herein made. It is true that "cost being on record. This is explained, however, the recognition of a right." The duty to proone who reads the message under considera- multiplied, and with a constant increase from by the fact that prior to March 23, 1792, the vide for those soldiers now in want, or who are year to year."

pensious found to be due to an invalid, under cared for by private beneficence, seems to be the regulations established by the President, cared for by private beneficence, seems to be were paid by the State to which his services were clear and indisputable. No consideration of gress of the fallacy of the estimate made by | titled to receive from a country which they | tion, and if more taxes, or even a different kind

The cost as estimated by your committee was probable annual cost of the pensions provided | not excessive, and was well within the means therein by referring to the estimate made by of the Government. But if it should happen Mr. Bloomfield, of New Jersy, Chairman Com- that the cost should be largely increased by it would be multiplied many times, it can be said | mittee on Revolutionary War Pensions, in De- | addition to the list of many more than was esthat the number of soldiers who could be reach- cember, 1817, regarding the probable number of timated, the country is well able to care for of our common country in every section of it, ed by this bill, who are totally unable to work, | beneficiaries under the bill proposing to grant | them. The system of taxation which has existed since the war, and which Congress has we have been engaged, and with every confimanifested no disposition to interfere with, In justice to this committee it may be stated | produces a revenue far beyond that which is that while its estimate was largely based upon | necessary to carry on the Government economofficial data, and other reasonably reliable in- ically administered. This surplus is constantly lieving it will tend to strengthen rather than to Committee on Revolutionary Pensions at the for every kind of device to again get it into cirtime referred to, seems to have no foundation | culation among the people. This committee | do pass notwithstanding the objections of the whatever, except such as his own limited | has nothing to say as to the immediate neces- | President. He based his estimate upon the then to him such an undertaking, nor have they any special Jersey Brigade, 20 in number, out of a total of | ings whenever the public convenience require | made "at the front" from 1861 to '65. Write

> former message says it is not, and accepting his and reducing the whole question to one of Estimating that by that number only 150,000 | money expediency, it seems to your committee

No bonded interest or huge monopolies can sight of, in this so-called estimate, 112,500 sol- | selves according to the strength of their "comparticular based upon what could then be of this bill from soldiers or army organizations; deemed sufficient ground therefor? Only 34 on the contrary they heartily approve of it, as Presuming that the total individual enlist- instance and in accordance with the necessities ments were only 165,000, and that 17,000 died of cases constantly brought to the notice of this

net of the draft. If any Counties, Townships

It was a bargain all around, and neither party of peace," and it is also to be regretted "that regret that they are not able to suggest a way of escape from the expenses incurred in the in times of peace, and the expense of maintaina war with any degree of success an army is

limitation that is placed by the bill as to the in the line of duty and while in the service graph and the cheap mail reach nearly every | Your committee has no desire to discuss all time during which the pension shall continue, would get perhaps only \$2; and it gives a pen- neighborhood throughout the United States, the points alluded to in the message of the we submit with confidence to the discriminat- sion to every widow of a soldier in that war affording facilities for intercourse and com- President, but they feel constrained to allude ing judgment of the House and the country | who is now 62 years of age, whether she was | munication, not only cheap but rapid. The | to that portion of a former message in which that but one construction can be given it, and the wife of the soldier or not at the time of his New England soldier who since the close of the he says: "I cannot rid myself of the conviction service, without reference to the cause of his late war has settled in the far West is enabled that if these ex-soldiers are to be relieved, they But the President says that "if the bill had death, even if he was killed in battle while to attend the Reunion of his old regiment in and their cause are entitled to the benefit of an his native town without much expense or loss | enactment under which relief may be claimed totally unable to labor it would have been very This committee would rejoice if there could of time. The present whereabouts of nearly as a right, and that such relief should be granteasy to express that idea instead of recognizing, even now be found some indefinite vagueness all the survivors of the war of the rebellion are ed under the sanction of law, and not in evasion of it; nor should such worthy objects of care, may be true, but the question is not whether the language is the most apt to give expression these results were not foreseen by him when

one in sympathy with tits object, will fully

The President says: "Recent personal observation and experience constrain me to refer to another result which will inevitably follow the passage of this bill. It is sad, but nevertheless true, that already in the matter of procuring pensions there exists a widespread disregard of truth and good faith. stimulated by those who as agents undertake to establish claims for pensions, heedlessly entered upon by the expectant beneficiary, and encouraged, or at least not condemned by those unwilling to obstruct a neighbor's plans."

Your committee do not share in the opinion that "there exists a widespread disregard of pension claims. Nor do we believe that the ex-soldiers of the country are prone to commit fraud, perjury, and subornation of perjury for that purpose or for any other. If, however, such be the fact, it does not appear to be productive of result in the successful issue of fraudulent claims in any appreciable degree.

The late Commissioner of Pensions, Hon. W. W. Dudley, in an annual report, says that with the most searching investigation of all cases of suspected fraud the result showed that in the number of allowed claims one-tenth of 1 per

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to enjoy one after it is procured, seems to be reduced to the minimum.

No pension attorney or other claim agent careful comparison of tables submitted in such | has ever advocated this bill before this committee or spoken in its favor to a single member thereof. Indeed, the paltry fee of \$5 allowed for the prosecution of claims under it offers no inducement to them. They perfer to annual cost of which would be about \$4,000,000, | confine their business to the more profitable channel of \$25 fees now allowed under the general law; and for that reason would rather not see this bill become a law. This is the free-will offering of the committee to the soldiers of the country, uninfluenced in any degree by claim agents, and brought about by the needs of those it proposes to benefit, as we have been brought to know them. It is not claimed that it goes as

In conclusion, we submit that the general tone of the message is to be fairly taken as an expression in advance of a purpose to use the Executive power to prevent any further legislation that will add any new class to our pencountry is against it.

We are aware that there is a sentiment of that kind, but insist that it is not a controling one. We are loth to believe that the people of this country are willing to allow the defenders declining years in misery and want, and that they would prefer that those who make their laws should err upon the side of mercy rather probable cost should be allowed to come be- | than upon the side of a too rigid economy in the tween them and the relief which they are en- expenditure of the public money in that direcof taxes, are necessary to meet this demand it would be cheerfully paid by the people.

Holding fast to these views of our duties as legislators, and with a cheerful willingness to answer here and elsewhere for the results of honest labors to relieve the indigent soldiers coming as they do from many wars in which dence of a right verdict upon the whole matter, we submit our bill again for the judgment of the House, and ask for it the most rigid criticism, beweaken it. We recommend, without a dissenting voice in this committee, that the bill

Comrade John C. Taylor, No. 17 Allen Place, Hartford, Conn., will employ a few comrades to exhibit his real war views, actual photographs

Eye Surgery.

During the last 14 years 1,062 cases of cataract were operated at the Maryland Eye and Ear Institute, 103 Mt. Vernon Place, Baltimore, Md., by Dr. George Reuling, Surgeon in charge. Of this number 930 were perfectly successful that is, 86 in every 100 were able to see well in the distance and to read fine print after the operation; 96 had sufficient vision to walk about and attend to ordinary business, and only 43 were not benefited sufficiently for any pracsion is a gratuity, which the President in a fection the present mode of cataract operation tical purpose. This shows to what great perhas been brought.

A Wedding.

A charming wedding took place at the home of Comrade Cavanah, Cleveland, O., on Jan. 22, when his daughter, Miss Mattie, was united in marriage to Fred D. Leslie, of the Cleveland Journal. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Dr. Haven, and the young couple were most handsomely remembered by their friends in the way of elegant and useful articles, pictures, silverware, etc., for their new home.

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Regulate my bowels. These Pills are mild in action, and do their work thoroughly. I

have used them, with good effect, in cases of Rheumatism and Dyspepsia. -G. F. Miller, Attleborough, Mass. Ayer's Pills cured me of Stomach and Liver troubles, from which I had suffered

for years. I consider them the best pills made, and would not be without them. - Morris Gates, Downsville, N. Y. I was attacked with Bilious Fever. which was followed by Jaundice, and was so dangerously ill that my friends

despaired of my recovery. I commenced taking Ayer's Pills, and soon regained my customary strength and vigor .-John C. Pattison, Lowell, Nebraska. Last spring I suffered greatly from a troublesome humor on my side. In spite of every effort to cure this eruption, it in-

creased until the flesh became entirely

raw. I was troubled, at the same time,

with Indigestion, and distressing pains in The Bowels.

By the advice of a friend I began taking Ayer's Pills. In a short time I was free from pain, my food digested properly, the sores on my body commenced healing, and, in less than one month, I was cured. -Samuel D. White, Atlanta, Ga.

I have long used Ayer's Pills, in my family, and believe them to be the best pills made. - S. C. Darden, Darden, Miss. My wife and little girl were taken with Dysentery a few days ago, and I at once began giving them small doses of Ayer's Pills, thinking I would call a doctor if the disease became any worse. In a short time the bloody discharges stopped, all pain went away, and health was restored. - Theodore Esling, Richmond, Va. #

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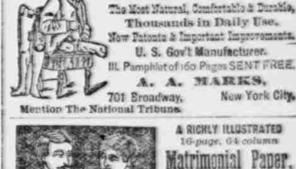
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